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**LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-15-01
January 5, 2015**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, statement of basis, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT:	City of Three Forks
FACILITY NAME:	City of Three Forks Wastewater Treatment Facility
FACILITY LOCATION:	T 2N, R 1E, SE ¼ Section 25 & NE ¼ Section 36, Facility coordinates: N 45° 53' 19", W 111° 32' 13" Outfall location: N 45° 53' 57.3", W 111° 31' 28.5"
COUNTY:	Gallatin
RECEIVING WATER:	Madison River
PERMIT NUMBER:	MT0020401

The permittee operates a two-cell facultative lagoon system, initially constructed in 1960 and upgraded in 1980. The treatment plant consists of conventional waste stabilization followed by a rapid infiltration (RI) system. The system has two primary facultative cells (7.4 acre each), two RI cells (1.2 acre each), and one storage cell (14.1 acre). The Technology Based Effluent Limit monitoring location (Outfall 001A) is located at the splitter valve where the effluent is diverted to the RI cells. The RI cells were designed to percolate to a recovery subdrain system and an effluent pumping station designed to pump effluent and some regional ground water to the Madison River via Outfall 001B.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al., CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. DEQ finds that the issuance of this permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and the permit includes effluent limits that prohibit any increase in pollutants above existing effluent limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS February 4, 2015. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS February 4, 2015 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail Barb Sharpe at bsharpe@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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